

Office	Elected	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Trevor Thompson	Margot Barraclough	Anne Thompson
Secretary	Ingrid D'Eathe	Trevor Thompson	Colin Turner
Treasurer/Data base	Margot Barraclough	Trevor Thompson	Colin Turner
Day Hike Organiser	Jenny Rooks	Trevor Thompson	Margot Barraclough
Saturday Hike Organiser	Werner Vanslembrouk	Trevor Thompson	Margot Barraclough
Trails/Berg Organiser	Sandra & Derek Pretorius	Trevor Thompson	Margot Barraclough
Socials Organiser	None		
Magazine Editor	Anne Thompson	Trevor Thompson	Margot Barraclough
Publicity Organiser	Coleen Seath	Margot Barraclough	Anne Thompson
Ordinary Member	Colin Turner	Merie McKenzie	Jenny Rooks

Appointment of Honorary Auditor:

Colin Turner was nominated auditor for 2010/2011 by the committee members. This was seconded by all club members.

In Memoriam: The Club remembered Norman Radford, Rosemary Mc Cullum and John Whittaker (Marge reminded us of him)

Honorary Life Membership: None awarded at AGM

Club Trophy: Trevor was pleased to be able to thank and acknowledge Colin Turner & Philip Gatenby for their enthusiasm and dedication to Wednesday hikes. These hikes are proving very popular and they have led between 50 & 60 hikes this last year. Well deserving of the Club Trophy.

General: 1) Colin mentioned that the zig-zag path out of Giba Gorge is no longer used by the cyclists and will not be maintained. The club may still use the path, but it may take some grass/bundu bashing.

2) Errol was recovering in hospital after an op. The club sent him some flowers.

3) The committee will meet once a quarter, possibly a Saturday morning.

4) Colin Turner thanked the committee for their commitment to the club.

The meeting closed at 12.45pm

Next meeting: 13 March 2010 **Venue:** Anne & Trevor Thompson

Chairman..... Date.....



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NEW GERMANY 3620

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Standard Bank Musgrave Road
Branch Code: 04262610
Account No: 051257653

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE DURBAN RAMBLERS' HIKING CLUB

JANUARY – MARCH 2011

Portfolio	Name	Home	Cell & e-mail
Chairman	Trevor Thompson	-	079 525 9230 phenduke@durbs.com
Secretary	Ingrid D'eathe	031 262-3753	083 789 3753
Treasurer	Margot Barraclough	031 705 1188	084 256 7867 margotb@corokraft.co.za
Sun Hike Organiser	Jenny Rooks	-	084 952 0622 jennyh@camclo.co.za
Sat Hike Organiser	Werner Vanslembrouk	031 767 2969	0842067836 werner.v@jafira.com
Trails Organisers	Derek & Sandra Pretorius	031 765 5029	084 355 4832 derek@webbis.co.za
Publicity	Coleen Seath	031 202 2279	scotcoleen@telkomsa.net
Social Organiser	Vacant	-	-
Ordinary Member	Colin Turner	031 708 3517	-
Magazine	Anne Thompson	-	072 791 0261 phenduke@durbs.com
Web Editor	Rob King	083 417 7805	robking45@gmail.com

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

The year has flown by, it seems like only weeks ago that I was wishing you all a Happy Christmas and here it is again. The Club has had an enjoyable and successful year, despite the recession we have gone from strength to strength, with all our fixtures being well attended. The Christmas party, in particular, was a

great success, thanks to the 63 Ramblers who attended. A party can only be successful if the partygoers have the will and personalities to enjoy themselves, so thanks for giving it your all!

I'm pleased and proud to announce that we have a fabulous new website, so please have a look, your comments will be appreciated. Jenny, Rob, Rose and Coleen have done a fantastic job and have worked very hard to get it up and running so quickly. In addition, Rob has gallantly undertaken to be the web editor, so if you'd like to make any contributions such as news, hike reports, photos you wish to share, send them to Rob at robking45@gmail.com.


It only remains for me, on behalf of the Committee, to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Happy hiking
Trevor

Member News

We extend a very warm welcome to all our new members and hope you enjoy many happy hours hiking the hills and dales with us.

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| ☺ Bridgette Hadar | ☺ Sharon Miller | ☺ Wendy Clark |
| ☺ Ann Devis | ☺ Gary Sharpe | ☺ Judy Nightscale |

SOCIAL CALENDAR	
	Ray van Reenen is planning more socials over the next few months. Will anyone interested in joining in please let Ray have their email address so he can let people know what's happening and when. Contact him at raymondd@absamail.co.za .
Saturday 26 Feb	AGM time -- this year we're changing the venue to accommodate our long suffering Durban members who unfailingly undertake the long trek "up the hill" for our Club events. So this year the AGM will be held at Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve at 12 noon, to be followed by a bring and braai. As facilities at the nature reserve are somewhat limited, please bring a chair plus <u>everything</u> you'll need for the braai. The fires will be provided by the Club. For your information, the Agenda and last AGM minutes are included further on in the magazine.

HIKING SCHEDULE
January – March 2011

Saturday Hikes

- **Please note:** Saturday hikers from Durban should phone Philip 031 201 3592 prior to leaving and arrange a pickup or to travel in convoy with him.

know of a good hike venue, just get in touch with me or the relevant committee member and I'm sure we can "maak 'n plan" to do a recce.

Finally, I must thank everybody who helped and attended our year end function at this very venue. Those of you that couldn't make it missed a real treat. I hope you'll be able to attend next year. It now only remains for me to thank you all for being here this afternoon and I hope you enjoy the AGM and also the Braai later.

Thanks

Christmas function a success, thanks to all.

Weekends, do not just deposit money, hikers must book with Sandra.

If hikers know of different paths they want to hike, please contact leaders to help.

Financial Report:

DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB

Financial Report for 2009.

There is a loss of R318 for the 2009 year.

Reasons for this loss are: -

- A drop in Income as Interest rates on Fixed deposit has gone down
- Hikes income for visitors which have been done away with

We increased the Fixed deposit to R68,817 from R65,000 as we had sufficient funds in the Bank account. This will also give us some additional interest.

Financially it has been a difficult year for everyone so we decided not to increase the subs. Colin Turner our auditor has drawn up a budget which we will try to stick to.

Thanks everyone for paying for weekends away in time so no losses were incurred to the Club. Well done to Sandra & Derek for being so organised.

Margot Barraclough
Treasurer

21/02/10.

Field queried a couple of items, hike leaders dinner & AGM costs. Hike leaders were thanked, with appreciation, by having a dinner. The committee did not have an annual dinner. AGM expense was at the German Club with eats, which was not being repeated.

Amendments to the Constitution: No amendments to the Constitution were proposed. Subs will remain the same.

Election of Office Bearers:

The following office bearers have been elected to serve on the committee.

DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB

Minutes of the 78th Annual General Meeting held on – 21ST Feb 2010 At Kloof Interpretative Centre

Welcome: Trevor welcomed all present and thanked them for their attendance. He was keen to use a new venue, and hoped to attract more ramblers to a day time AGM.

Present:
37 members as per attendance register.

Apologies: Nikki & Heins Gertz, Jean Elliott, Lois Vanslebrouck, Glynis Bentley, Lee D'Eathe

Minutes of 2009 A.G.M.:
Confirmed: Proposed - Colin Turner, Seconded – Anne Thompson

Matters Arising: None

Chairman's Report:

Good afternoon everybody

Welcome to the 78th Annual General Meeting of Durban Ramblers. I hope you enjoy the meeting and also the venue as well as our change of time. We hoped to attract more members by having an afternoon meeting and felt that a braai afterwards would be far more sociable. We hope you agree. The first thing for me to report on is the sad death of two of our members – Rosemary and Norman. I'm sure they will be sadly missed by all who knew them.

This year was a very new experience for me as your chairman as I didn't know what to expect from the members or what was expected of me. However, I've really enjoyed the experience and must thank the committee members for their strong support and hard work. Their commitment to the Ramblers is first class. Thanks guys. Whilst on the subject I'd like to thank Lisa for her excellent work as secretary over the last three years. Her constitutional term is now at an end and we are in a position of needing a new secretary. However, all is not lost as Ingrid D'eathe has agreed to be put forward as a candidate for your consideration.

Due to my health problem I haven't hiked very much this year, however the hike organisers have kept the committee informed of the numbers taking part in the hikes and I'm very encouraged by these as I fully expected the recession to have some impact on attendances.

Our average for Saturday and Sunday hikes has stayed at the same level as last year (around 30 -40 on Saturday and 15 -18 on Sunday). The Wednesday hikes have really taken off and are now held every week with 12-15 walkers taking part.

The weekend trips have been especially successful, with all accommodation being fully booked well in advance, proving how popular they are. So if you'd like to join these weekend trips, please make sure to put your name down with Sandra and pay your deposit early to make sure you're not disappointed.

I'd like to make a special mention of our unsung heroes - our hike leaders - without you we wouldn't have a Durban Ramblers Club, thanks and well done. Although these guys are doing a great job you can all help them by suggesting venues for our hikes and weekend trips. Rapid development in the Durban Metro area has meant that a lot of walks are now lost to us and it is getting increasingly difficult to fill the quarterly programmes with sufficient variety. So if you

- Please get to starting point by 13h45 in order for hike to begin on time.
- For directions to the starting point, please PHONE the organiser between 12h00 and 12h45 on the day of the hike, don't SMS them.
- Children are welcome but check suitability of hike with leader. Please bring at least 1 litre of water, a snack for half time and a hat.

Sunday Hikes (Full Day)

- Always phone the hike leader beforehand to let him/her know to expect you on the hike.
- Please try to get to the meeting places at **least 10 minutes earlier** to help with arranging lifts.
- Bring the correct amount of money as change may not be available.
- It is advisable to bring at least 2 litres of water, mid-morning snack, lunch and a hat.
- **Meeting Place** : Union Main Centre, Old Main Road, Pinetown to depart at 08h00. If there is a change to the meeting time or venue this will be noted in the hiking schedule below.
- If it is raining, please check with the hike leader before setting out for the meeting place.
- **NB** : *if you need a lift from the meeting place, contact the hike leader or one of the hike organisers to arrange.*

Wednesday Morning Hikes

Please check details of the hikes with Colin or Philip at the numbers shown. If no response is obtained from the first leader phoned, please phone the alternate leader - don't just leave a message as one of them may be away on holiday.

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Sat 1 Jan	Happy New Year - no scheduled hike today		
Sun 2 Jan	No hike today		
Wed 5 Jan	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 8 Jan	Paradise Valley	Ismail	031 209 0902
	Shady walk beside a river. Some historical interest. Meet at car park at the reserve entrance at 13h45. Entrance R10.00.		
Sun 9 Jan	Boschhoek	Jon	0824591522
	Hike leader : Francois Marais, Chairman of PMB Ramblers. We meet Francois at Midmar Dam at 07h45 to travel to the Farm Aird on the old farm Petrus Stroom. We will climb to the beacon on the farm Boschhoek (as high as JHB) and on to a waterfall overlooking Dargle Valley. Wonderful views of Midmar and Albert Falls and other mountain ranges. Refreshments afterwards at Aird on a beautiful stoep. 14 kms altogether. NB. Early start because of the heat. Meet in Pinetown at 06h45. Petrol sharing costs R50.	to coordinate	
Wed 12 Jan	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 15 Jan	Impithi/Porcupine Falls	Ann	031 767 1027
	Meet at Kranskloof Nature Reserve picnic and		

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
	parking area at 13h45. R15.00 entrance fee.		
Sun 16 Jan	Alverstone Reserve	Jon	0824591522
	Nice, easy walk for this time of the year, followed by an early lunch-time braai at the reserve. Either meet in Pinetown at 08h00 or at the reserve at 08h15 Petrol sharing costs R35.		
Wed 19 Jan	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 22 Jan	Palmiet Nature Reserve	Philip	031 201 3592
	Shady walk beside Palmiet River. Meet at reserve entrance below Westville Hotel at 13h45. Afterwards, get together at the Westville Hotel for a drink and a chat.		
Sun 23 Jan	Mount Edgecombe	Jenny	0849520622
	Umhlanga Rocks to Mount Edgecombe meander. A varied hike with wonderful views and lots of indigenous bush. Moderate hike. Meet at the end of Herrwood Drive, Umhlanga Rocks at 07h30.		
Wed 26 Jan	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 29 Jan	Roosfontein	Rob	083 417 7805
	Grasslands and riverine forest. Meet at Westville Prison entrance parking at 13h45. Get together for drinks at the Pavilion after hike.		
Sun 30 Jan	Shongweni/Summerveld Circuit	Colin	031 708 3517
	A combination of Colin's various hikes in this area. R15 petrol sharing. Meet at Pinetown at 07h00 or at Assegay Hotel at 07h15. NB: ID numbers are required for the Tongaat Hulett indemnity form		
Wed 2 Feb	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 5 Feb	Club Hike Weekend		
	No Saturday hike today but we will join up with the Sunday hikers for our quarterly joint club hike tomorrow.		
Sun 6 Feb	Quarterly Club Hike - Summerveld/Delville Wood	Jon	082 459 1522
	It's the Sunday hikers turn to host the club hike. This is an exciting hike that explores the area around Delville Wood station. See a magnificent waterfall and unusual tunnels. Meet at Pinetown at 07h00 or at the Assegay Hotel at 07h15 to proceed to park at the Shongweni Brewery. After the hike there will be a bring and braai, possibly at the brewery. If not at the brewery, then nearby. Petrol sharing costs R15.		

**DURBAN RAMBLERS HIKING CLUB
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Date Saturday, 26 February 2011
Time 12 noon
Venue Beachwood Mangroves Nature Reserve

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. To confirm Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting.
4. To consider any matters arising from the minutes.
5. To receive and approve the Chairman' report.
6. To receive and approve the Financial report
7. To consider and ratify increased subscription fees for 2011:
 - a. Single member from R60 to R70
 - b. Couple/family from R75 to R90
 - c. Country single from R45 to R55
 - d. Country couple from R50 to R60
8. To elect office bearers and the Executive Committee.
9. To elect the Honorary Auditor
10. To present the floating trophy.
11. To receive any other business of which due notice has been given.

A bring and braai will follow the meeting, braai fires will be provided by Club. Please bring all your own requirements plus a chair.

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Marge! With all these adventures, the weekend could not be other than a great experience enjoyed immensely by all!

Those of us in the homestead were up with the sparrows and boots at the ready but thick, thick mist prevailed so our proposed walk along the top of the gorge was not to be. Instead Brian took us on a meander through the cane fields that had us back by lunchtime. Keen to stretch our legs a bit more, a group of us then walked up through the forestry area on the near side of the gorge – cool and misty, the smell of pine needles and the rustle of wind through the tall trees – magnificent. However, the mist came down again as we reached the half-way point and we were glad to turn for home.

Man, did we party that night! The relatively gentle walks meant we were all still full of beans – none of this exhausted-ramblers-early-to-bed stuff! Trevor tried to smoke us all out with the braai fires but once we'd beaten the fumes back we got down and dancing and partied the night away. One of those good music, good conversations, good wine sort of nights - lots of fun.

We ended the weekend with lunch at a sugar mill club and then home, admiring the stunning bougainvillea along the roads. The dryness has resulted in a show of colour that has been the most beautiful I have ever seen – just another “wow” to add to all the others from a memorable weekend.

..... **and Mountain Shadows/Highmoor – November 2010**

Nineteen Ramblers descended on this quiet and spectacular valley in the Kamberg area. Mountain Shadows, once a farm, now has accommodation which is very comfortable, with a beautiful view across to the mountain. Ducks, chickens, peacocks, and dogs “entertained” us, to say nothing of wild horses galloping around at night!!

After a storm on Friday night, Saturday dawned a perfect day. Fifteen hikers set off from the top of Highmoor with breathtaking views of Giant’s Castle and the Central Berg. We visited the Aasvoel’s cave, a large overhang with a spectacular waterfall and pool. The in/out hike was 4.5km each way, but six hardy hikers decided to do a second leg to the Caracal Caves, making a total of 16km.

Evening found us gathered in the quaint, pub like, entertainment area where we watched South Africa beat England at Rugby. Then followed the usual Saturday evening braai. And for most weary hikers it was an early night.

Sunday was a day of choices!! As much or as little exercise as one liked before packing up to return to the bustle of Durban. Well done Sandy, another notch in your belt! (Written by Jill Dunstone)

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SPECIAL NOTE: The sting in the tail! Subscriptions will have to increase next year (the first time in three years) due to, amongst other things, falling interest rates. We request members who wish to pay early to pay the proposed amounts below which will be ratified at the AGM in February. Many thanks for your cooperation.

- Single member R70
- Couple/family R90
- Country single R55
- Country couple R60

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
Wed 9 Feb	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 12 Feb	Pigeon Valley & University	Rob	083 417 7805
	A new hike for Saturday walkers. Meet at 13h45 at the Pigeon Valley entrance on Princess Alice Avenue, cnr Bowes-Lyon Avenue).		
Sun 13 Feb	Bluff	Duncan	083 229 7748
	Combined Ramblers/Backpackers hike. Duncan Hiles will be leading his popular Bluff hike. We will visit the Bluff – see the harbour widening activities, old military installations, go down to the beach and visit the Millennium Tower. Meet at Glenwood Village Centre (Buxtons), Moore Road 07h30 or at start of the hike by arrangement with Duncan. Petrol sharing costs R10.		
Wed 16 Feb	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 19 Feb	Mpushini Valley	Jenny	084 952 0622
	We join the Pietermaritzburg Hiking Club for their hike at Mpushini. Valley in the Ashburton area. This is a 10km moderate hike to the Msunduzi River look-out. We park at Impala Bend and stay on for a drink at the bar and a braai afterwards (optional). Meet at Assegay Hotel at 13h00 or at the top of Ashburton off ramp from the N3 at 13h45.		
Sun 20 Feb	We are hiking on Saturday afternoon instead with PMB Ramblers. See Saturday 19 Feb.		
Wed 23 Feb	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 26 Feb	Durban Ramblers AGM		
	No hike scheduled today. Please join us for AGM, details in Socials section.		
Sun 27 Feb	Eston Area	Margie	073 437 6915
	Lovely moderate hike on a beautiful farm just past the Tala Game Reserve. Lunch at Eston Farmers' club afterwards (optional). Meet in Pinetown at 07h00. Petrol sharing costs R35.		
Wed 2 Mar	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 5 Mar	Barn Swallows – Mount Moreland	Jenny	084 952 0622
	Meet at Mount Moreland Village Green at 13h30 to start walk at 13h45. Braai and sundowners afterwards until viewing of the swallows at 18h30. Directions- Take Umhloti Beach /Verulam turnoff from the N2 or M27. Turn left towards Verulam.		

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
	After 1km at the white Tongaat pillar, take 1 st right D575 to Mount Moreland. After 3kms take left turn over low level bridge then next right and 1 st left up the hill to Mount Moreland. Park on the Village Green on your right. Bring binocs, chairs. R10.00 payable to conservancy.		
Sun 6 Mar	Otto's Bluff	Jenny	084 952 0622
	We are joining Midlands on Brian Henwood's lovely hike from Ferncliffe Nature Reserve in PMB to Otto's Bluff. Spectacular views of PMB and Albert Falls Dam. Meet in Pinetown at 06h50 to leave 07h00 sharp. Petrol sharing costs R50.	to coordinate	
Wed 9 Mar	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 12 Mar	Emberton - Springside	Dennis	083 320 4951
	Nice circular walk in grasslands and some shady forest. Meet at Emberton Driving Range car park at 13h45. Get together at the Emberton coffee shop afterwards for tea and cream scones.		
Sun 13 Mar	Richmond to Joseph Baynes cottage, Baynesfield	Dave	031 464 9033
	New hike : (about 12 kms) It starts at Campbell Mckenzie's farm "Osgodby", near Richmond. This will be a joint Ramblers, Midlands & Backpackers hike led by Dave Tighe & Dave Herseiman. Hike starts with a steady uphill through plantation, & into cool natural forest. The old stone cottage is situated high up with a magnificent view overlooking Baynesfield. Grade 2/3. Meet in Pinetown at 06h50 or at B.P. Garage, Shepstone Road (which is the main road) in Richmond at 08h00. Petrol Sharing costs R35.		or 076 028 0708
Wed 16 Mar	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 19 Mar	Assegay Meander	Lois	031 767 2969
	Meet at Sugar Loaf Centre (bottom of Botha's Hill) at 13h45. Street walking in the Assegay area.		
Sun 20 Mar	South Coast Beach Walk - Part 2	Rose	082 671 4606
	Roy and Rose will be leading Part 2 of their popular beach walk to Toti Golf Course (there are lots of beautiful rock pools to explore along the way). Stay on for an optional, very reasonable lunch afterwards at a restaurant close to the sea. Meet at top of Buxtons Centre at 07h30 or on top of Amanzimtoti Shopping Centre (used to be called Sanlam Centre)		

Date	Description of Hike	Leader	Tel
	at 08h00. Petrol sharing costs R20.		
Wed 23 Mar	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592
Sat 26 Mar	Valley of 1000 Hills	Werner	031 767 2969
	Walk through grasslands and indigenous bush overlooking Valley of 1000 hills. Meet and park at Drum and Bell at 13h45. Follow Old Main road past Botha's Hill towards Drummond. Drinks at Drum and Bell afterwards.		
Sun 27 Mar	Salimba Farm, Richmond	Steve	0834540579
	Steve Nel is once again leading this stunning hike on Salimba Farm, which has wonderful views over the Umkomaas River valley. Meet at Pinetown at 07h00. Petrol Sharing costs R40	or Jenny	084 952 0622
Wed 30 Mar	Wednesday Walk	Colin or Philip	031 708 3517 031 201 3592

WEEKEND & TRAILS PROGRAMME
1st QUARTER 2011

Please phone the "Contact Person" below to confirm bookings for weekends **before** depositing the money in the bank. This will ensure your space is reserved.

Date	Description	Leader	Contact Person
21-23 Jan	Mount Park, Dargle - a firm favourite. Lovely rooms in main house, will take 12+ people, fully equipped kitchen, sitting/dining rooms. R100 pppn. Two cottages with double beds - R100 pppn, camping R50 pppn	TBA	Sandra 031 765 5029 084 355 4832
22-25 April	Not finalised, but probably Lake Eland. Camping only, R70 pppn.	TBA	Sandra (tel as above)

Tales of Trails..... Eagles View, Wartburg - September 2010

Sandy Pretorius has been doing a great job arranging away weekends and this one was no exception: the road signs had changed so we couldn't even find the place; the mist was so heavy Saturday's walk had to be re-thought; the fridge was actually a freezer in disguise that killed the lettuces and cucumbers; Brian narrowly missed breaking a leg when he fell down some stairs; the taps ran dry so no toilets or showers; and on Sunday the heat was so intense it literally flattened